真冬のハートフル・ファンタジー

僕と君の白

カラー60P

君と出会って
はじめて
僕の世界は
色を変えた——

下北沢ミツオ

「ちゃ」別冊マーガレット

ホラー&サスペンス読みきり集
MC「雨は冷たく笑う」絶賛発売中！

Happy White Day!

Damn Feels! xxx, Paperdolls Project
Winter Translations

This was meant to be part of our Valentines release, but we ended up quite burned out from working round the clock for two weeks in a row. We hope it's okay that this ends up being White Day releases instead.

Sorry to keep you guys waiting for so long!

Special thanks to Yoshiko

Special thanks to Otakugarbage

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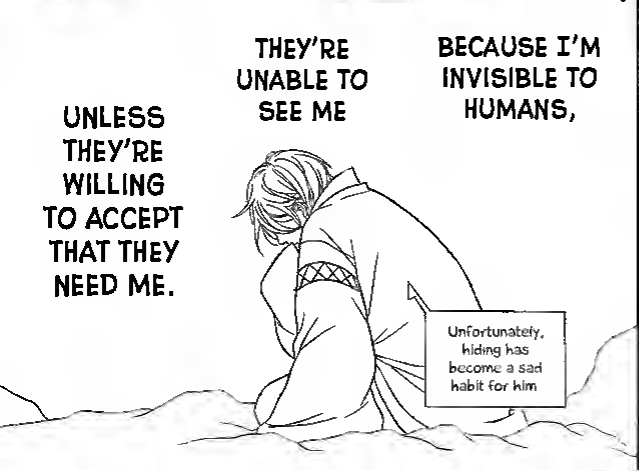
URGENT

I AM A SNOW SPIRIT.
BRINGING WITH ME THE SNOW
THAT DYES THIS WORLD IN WHITE.

Quit it with the snow!
What's up with that! I hate it! I want to walk my dog so come on!
I'll duel you in a snowball fight! I'm so sick of this—
SPLAT
SPLAT
Leave the air alone.
Ahh, I'm so sorry, so so sorry.
flinch
TREMBLE


UNLESS THEY'RE WILLING TO ACCEPT THAT THEY NEED ME.
THEY'RE UNABLE TO SEE ME
BECAUSE I'M INVISIBLE TO HUMANS,
Unfortunately, hiding has become a sad habit for him

HOWEVER, THAT'S ALL MY EXISTENCE AMOUNTS TO.
SPLAT
Oi, you there, Snow Spirit?
Grandma says you're worshipped here.

I cringe just thinking of the snow I have to shovel day in, day out.
I have an important meeting, but
because of the snow, the train is...
I, who brings the snow that so annoys people, is someone who's hated by everyone.
Nobody has ever been able to see me. Not even once.
dust off
I don't want to be hated anymore...
Not a single person notices me.
Nor am I needed by anyone.
That's why
I spend my days alone.
sob

I EXIST IN THIS WORLD...
THE REASON WHY
crunch crunch
There's footsteps
sad habit
SOMEBODY PLEASE TELL ME

KA–
KAWAIII!!

PERHAPS THIS CHILD
AHH...
CAME HERE BECAUSE SHE'S IN NEED OF ME?
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT JUST THE THOUGHT OF HER NEEDING ME MAKES ME FEEL HAPPY...
HUH?
I WONDER WHAT'S MAKING HER LOOK SO SURPRISED...
WH— WHAT?
glance
glance

Y... you're talking to me?
Eh?
Ah... Yes?
YOU CAN SEE ME?

What are you looking around for?
Um.
But there's nobody here except me

C-calm down. R-right now I'm making myself look suspicious...
Ah...
I mustn't let this chance slip away.
Ha—
But how is she able to talk to me...?

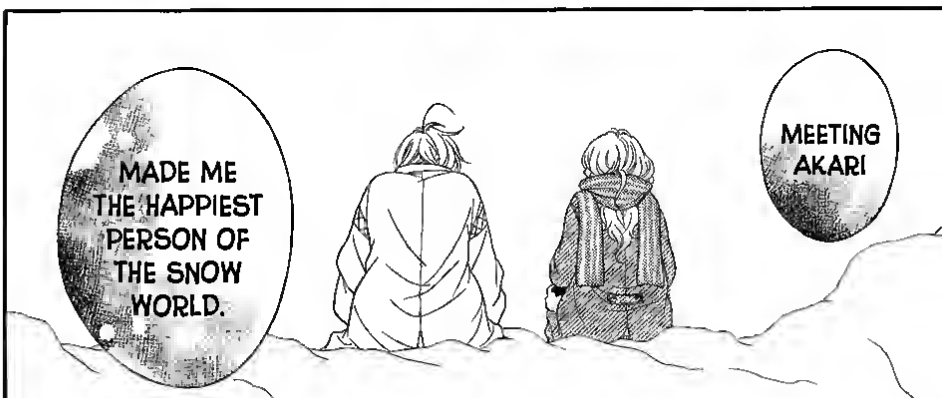
A...
...Well, you are completely out in the open.
A MIRACLE?!

HAJIME-MASHITE. I'M A SNOW SPIRIT.
*T/N HAJIMEMASHITE IS SOMETHING YOU SAY WHEN YOU MEET SOMEONE FOR THE FIRST TIME. "YUKI" MEANS "SNOW" IN JAPANESE
I MAKE SNOW FALL SO PLEASE CALL ME YUKI*.
A-
STUNNED
AH...
sparkle..
S...sorry. Th...that was weird, wasn't it? The truth is, this is my first time speaking with a human...
This is also the first time that someone's been able to see my form...
Also, to find someone who actually needs me...
This is all very new to me...

That's why...
I'M HAPPY. I'M SO HAPPY.
THE TEARS WON'T STOP.
...I see.
So, only a person who needs Yuki will be able to see you...?
Yes.

But, what should I do for you?
Well, since you can see me, maybe the day that I receive more duties has arrived.
I'm not really sure what else I can do besides bringing the snow...
...Even though, for me...
Nothing at all...
If you could just stay by my side,
that's all I wish for.
Eh?

I'm Akari*.
Pleased to meet you, Yuki.
*T/N THE KANJI USED TO WRITE AKARI'S NAME (灯) MEANS LIGHT IN JAPANESE


MEETING AKARI
MADE ME THE HAPPIEST PERSON OF THE SNOW WORLD.

I AM A SNOW SPIRIT,

MEANT TO DYE THE WORLD IN WHITE.

*T/N: "OLDER SISTER" IN JAPANESE

YOU ADDED COLOR TO MY HEART
WHEN IT WAS ALREADY EMPTY...
It's snowing again today.
The weather forecast was completely wrong, eh?
walk
walk
walk
I wonder what I'll play with Yuki today
Akari.
We're all about to go to Karaoke.
How about you come with us?

Ah...
Sorry, I have things to do, so...
.....
Y'know, I heard from some kids in my neighbourhood, like...
Akari... she seems to like going to the Yukino Shrine by herself for no reason.
Yukino Shrine... isn't that where the snow spirit is worshipped?
Seriously, there's no way I believe such a thing about Akari.
I don't get her at all.
But, she *is* superstitious and such, so...
Still...
When you think about how Akari is feeling...
.....
Yeah, that's true.

Hardly a year has passed since then...
Eh?
This muffler is for me?
I think red will look good on Yuki because your complexion is so pale.
Yeah.
Eh?! You made it yourself?
I poured my feelings into this, with each and every stitch that I knitted.
I want Yuki to wear this all the time.
NO, THAT WOULD BE YOU WHO'S BAD AT KEEPING WARM...
Plus, whenever you appear it's really cold, so...

stare...
So, this is for me?
part
THANK YOU. I WILL CHERISH IT 'TIL THE DAY I DIE.

EHH?
A... AKARI?! WHAT'S WRONG?!
Eh?
How is it? Doesn't it suit me? Or...
IS IT BECAUSE IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD ON ME?
I WILL PUT IN MORE EFFORT TO HAVE A FAIRER COMPLEXION...
That's not it...
It's just that I'm really happy I made it for you...
Akari...
Look at me.

glow...
This is a thank you for the muffler.
I... is this a snow-flake?
Do you like it?
Then, I'd like to see you smile as usual.

I like Yuki, too.
Because I really like Akari's smiling and laughing face...
...
Eh?

FALL BACK
WAIT A MIN...
A...
AKARI?!
Yu...ki?
A...
WE... WE CAN'T.
It's not that I don't want to kiss you, Akari,
but the truth is, heat weakens me.
If a human touches me, their body heat makes me melt...

THOSE WORDS WERE THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT I FELT.
I'm sorry. If I disappear,
some things will disappear from this world together with me...
THE TRUTH IS,
IF I'M GOING TO DISAPPEAR ANYWAY, I'D RATHER BE KISSED FIRST.
Hey, Snow Spirit.
I want to take my dog for a walk.
Splat
Splat
Isn't it time you did something about the snow?
I wish I didn't have this body so that I...
Sob.

That's right. Hands we sort of held hands.
Let's go
She was wearing gloves then...
BEING UNABLE TO TOUCH...
I DIDN'T KNOW IT COULD BE THIS PAINFUL.
flop...
haah
AHH...
I WANT TO SEE AKARI SOON...

Huh, there's nobody here.
These are the kids from the neighborhood, right?
!!!
!!
RISE UP
AKARI?!
TURNS
AKARI?!
COULD THEY BE AKARI'S FRIENDS BY ANY CHANCE?
There sure are a lot of visitors today...
But I can't play with Akari when there are people around...
We came a long way to get to this place but Akari's not even here...
Well, legend has it that if you're able to meet a Snow Spirit, a dead person can be brought back to life.
But we shouldn't really believe anything elementary school kids say these days.

But you know, I don't get why she wants to meet the Snow Spirit.
Would it even grant the wish if you actually meet...?
I mean, Akari's boyfriend did slip in the snow and then was run over by a truck, right?
If it hadn't been snowing, he wouldn't have died...
YOU COULD SAY HE WAS KILLED BY THE SNOW SPIRIT, ISN'T IT...

...I
AKARI'S BOY-FRIEND?
Those girls have such big mouths.
I didn't want Yuki to know...
Is it true,
what they said?
.....
It's true.

IT WAS ONE YEAR AGO ON VALENTINE'S DAY.
I WAS AT OUR USUAL MEETING SPOT.
I wonder if you'll be happy with this...
A hand-made muffler,
together with chocolate filled marshmallows
Hey, it looks like there was an accident at that intersection over there.
A guy slipped and a truck ran into him.
I WAS A FOOL WHO DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING, SO I KEPT WAITING.
AND KEPT
WAITING
AND WAITING
AND WAITING.

THE TWO OF US WILL NEVER MEET AGAIN.
NOW,
So, I just
kind of wanted to see him again.
Here.
Please look?
But to me, such kind of power...
is not some kind of superstition.
So that's why you came here? Because you believe in the superstition?

*T/N: HER BOYFRIEND'S NAME IS ALSO PRONOUNCED AS "YUKI" BUT WRITTEN IN A DIFFERENT KANJI. IT IS WRITTEN AS "幸" (FORTUNE) INSTEAD OF 雪 (SNOW). THE SNOW SPIRIT'S NAME IS WRITTEN IN KATAKANA AS ユキ.

LIKE A CHILD, YOU BELIEVED IN SUPER-STITIONS
THINKING THAT HE COULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE.
BUT IT'S MY FAULT THAT HE DIED.
WHY
DOES THIS HAVE TO BE SO CRUEL...
Hey, Yuki...
will you stay by my side from now on?

I'M THE ONE WHO KILLED YUKI...
"I poured my feelings into this, with each and every stitch that I knitted."
"I want Yuki to wear this all the time."
Akari
BUT...
wanted me to be by her side...
"If you could just stay by my side,
that's all I wish for."
IF THAT

IS WHAT MAKES AKARI HAPPY, THEN...
kya ha ha ha
ah ha ha
IF IT'S FOR YOUR HAPPINESS,
I'LL DO ANYTHING...
AKARI IS THE FIRST PERSON TO NEED ME.
SHE'S ALSO THE PERSON WHO'S SAVING ME FROM MY WHITE WORLD OF ISOLATION.
BECAUSE OF THIS, I'D DO ANYTHING FOR HER.
YES.
IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

I WISH
I'D NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS.
I WISH
I'D NEVER SEEN THIS.
IF I DO THAT, WE CAN JUST GO ON AS ALWAYS,
Akari,
it'll get dark soon...
SPENDING HAPPY TIMES TOGETHER
FOR AS MUCH AS WE LIKE.
I want... to be with you forever.
But it's getting late. It's dangerous, and...
I...
Why are you saying such things?
Is it because Yuki feels that we shouldn't be together anymore?
Akari ...
... Then,
please stay...

I...
What you really want is the real Yuki to stay by your side.
Ah...
That's not true...
Akari,
let's stop this.
Eh?
If we continue being together,
you would only be chasing after Yuki's shadow through me.
And that would only be a source of torment for Akari.
TH... THAT'S NOT IT!

If I'm to be by your side...
Who am I going to be?
You wouldn't be a source of torment to me.
As long as Yuki is with me...
But it's a source of torment for me.
Whenever I'm with you,
no matter what, it's not me that you're looking at.
IT'S NOT ME THAT YOU REALLY NEED.
Yu... ki...
I'M NOT YOUR YUKI.
"I like Yuki too..."

...I'm a Snow Spirit.
When spring comes, I'll disappear again and continue my long slumber.
I can't always be by Akari's side.
That's all I can do...
NOT EVEN A SINGLE ONE.
Yuki...?
That's why...
clench
THOSE WORDS,
THOSE SMILES, ALL OF IT,
THEY DON'T BELONG TO ME...

please,
please forget about me.
IF I
AM REALLY YUKI'S REINCARNATION.
HOW HAPPY ...
I WONDER ...
WE COULD HAVE BEEN.

I CAN'T HOLD HER WITH THIS BODY
NOR FEEL THE WARMTH OF HER HANDS.
IF I'M YUKI,
THEN WHY AM I UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING?
I HATE THE AKARI WHO IS UNABLE TO FORGET ABOUT YUKI.
I HATE YUKI.
I'm the worst.

AND YET MY FEELINGS FOR AKARI ARE ONLY GETTING STRONGER.
I'M SUCH A FOOL—
Even though I was the one who robbed Yuki from Akari.
These feelings...
WHAT I REALLY HATE THE MOST
IS THIS CONSTANT REMINDER THAT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING.

RATTLE
RATTLE

I'VE ALWAYS
HATED SNOW. BUT
Wow, that sure is some snowstorm.
Including today, it's been going on for a whole week.

WHEN THE SNOW TOOK YUKI'S LIFE,
EVER SINCE THAT DAY
MY DAYS ARE FILLED WITH SADNESS AND LONELINESS
AND A BROKEN HEART.
EVERY DAY.
EVERY DAY HAS BEEN TORTURE.

THAT YUKI
LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE MY YUKI.
I REALLY THOUGHT THAT IT WAS FOR ME
MEETING YUKI
WAS A GOD-GIVEN MIRACLE.
BEING ABLE TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN
FELT AS THOUGH THE PAST HAD RETURNED.
I WAS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS
ONCE AGAIN.

Akari...
STILL, HOW MUCH HAVE I HURT YUKI?
I CAN'T EVEN DARE TO IMAGINE...
HE WAS ALWAYS BY MY SIDE.
HE SAVED WHAT WAS LEFT OF MY HEART.
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS YUKI WHO WAS RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES...
IT WAS SUCH A SIMPLE THING.

I'VE ALWAYS

HATED SNOW.

BUT RIGHT NOW

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE

THIS SNOW...

sksk
wonders around
AKARI?!
toes

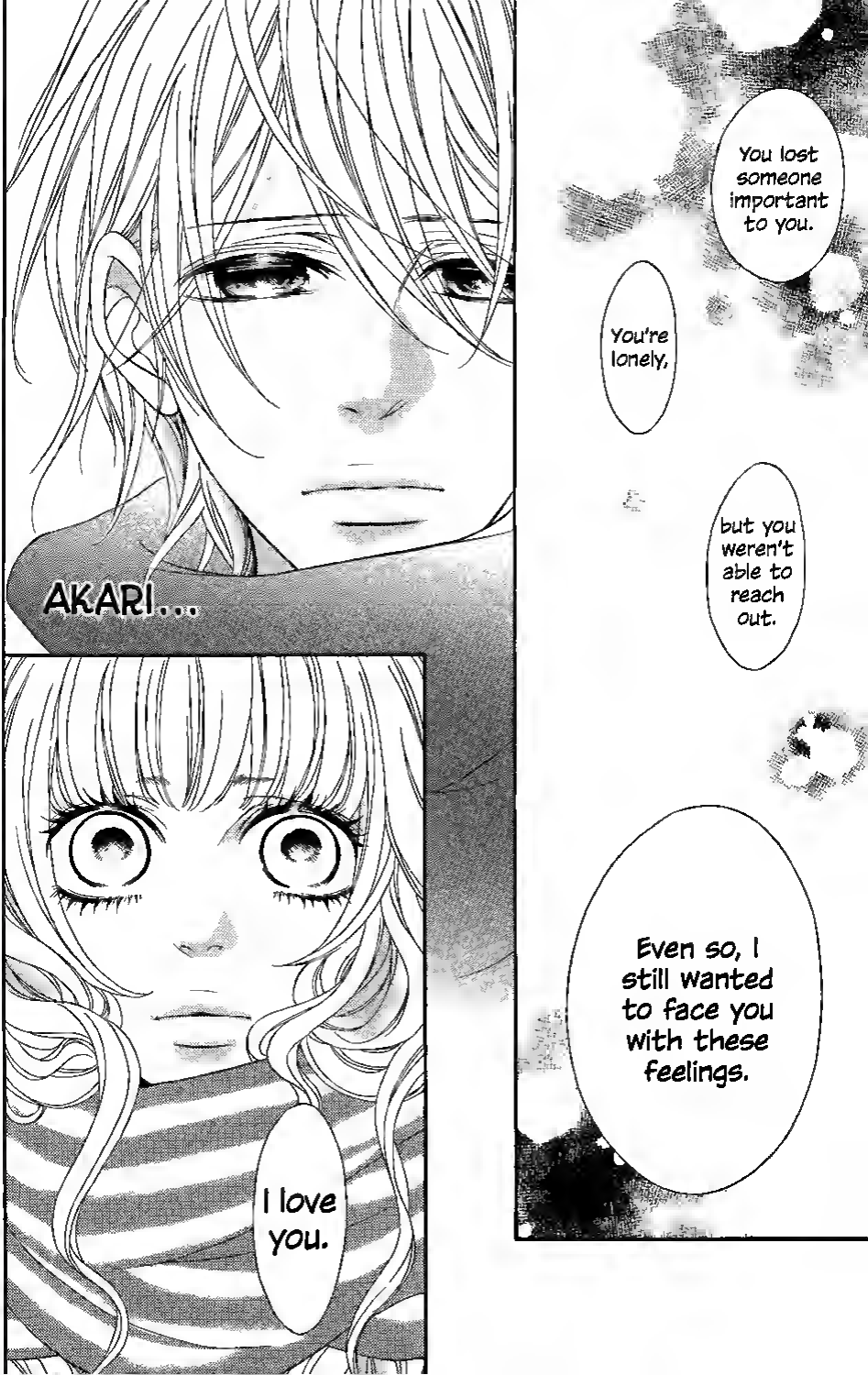
...
She can't have come...
I WANT TO SEE HER...
I WANT TO SEE AKARI—
YUKI.

I came
to see you, Yuki.
Why are you here...

But ...
I want you to know

All this time, I've been so terrible to you.
I'm sorry, Yuki...

Be it in the morning, day or night,
no matter what I was doing,
Akari, you were never far from my thoughts.
It's just that, I haven't been able to move on from him.
that I didn't mean to hurt you.
you were all I could think about.
While we were apart
That's why...
Because I was willing Akari to come and see me.
I feel that I can finally understand what you're feeling.
Yuki ...


You lost someone important to you.
You're lonely,
but you weren't able to reach out.
Even so, I still wanted to face you with these feelings.
AKARI...
I love you.

With all my body and soul, I love you.
Even if your heart resides with him instead of me...
Yu... ki...
Then please, always be by my side...
Yuki—please take me with you to the world you'll return to.

You're just as important to me now as Yuki was to me then.
I know I'm being selfish.
But even though I understand that, I don't know what else I should do...
Akari ...
Because I can't take anymore of this...
I don't want to go back to being alone.
I don't want to lose another person who's important to me.
Please ...

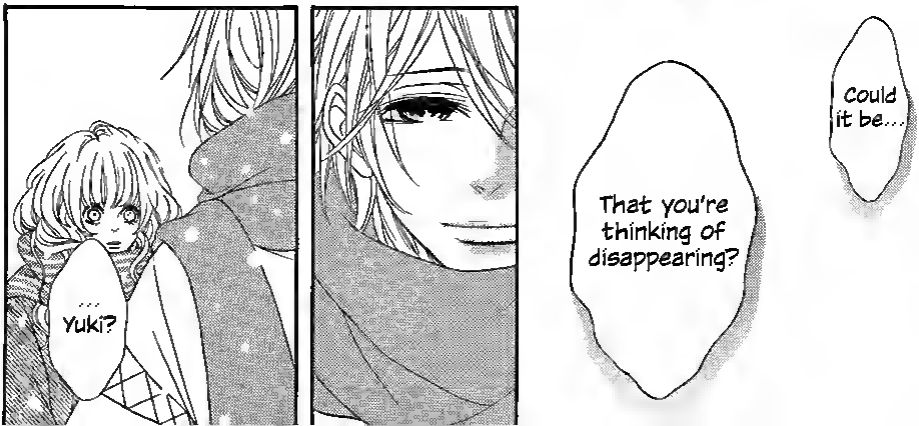
If not as a last resort—
My memories.
Please erase them completely.
Aka—
COM…PLETELY
…ERASE?
"If you're able to meet a Snow Spirit, a dead person can be brought back to life."

reach...
Perhaps
that's the meaning behind that superstition...
I FELT LIKE I UNDERSTOOD IT AT LAST.
THE REASON FOR MY EXISTENCE,
THE REASON I WAS SENT TO THIS WORLD
Akari,
I always want to be by your side as well.
Then...
But

*T/N HE MEANS THE DEAD YUKI

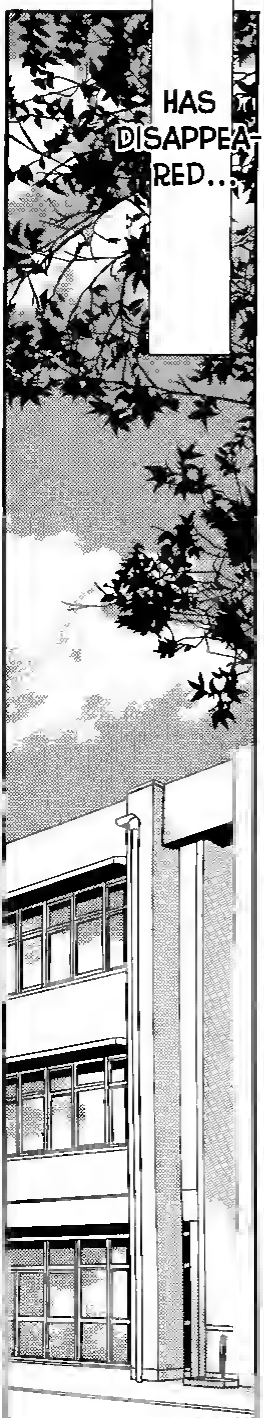
Do you remember? What I talked about before...
"If I disappear, some things will disappear from this world together with me..."
... Eh?
I'll make it right again.
But Yuki's already...
I now understand the real meaning behind the superstition.

"THE DAY THE SNOW TOOK YUKI'S LIFE."
If I disappear,
all the snow that I've brought together will disappear from this world with me.
Even the snow that's fallen in the past...
Yu... ki?
The accident wouldn't have happened if not for the snow.
Wait a...
Yuki's accident wouldn't have happened if not for...
I SAID WAIT A MINUTE, YUKI!

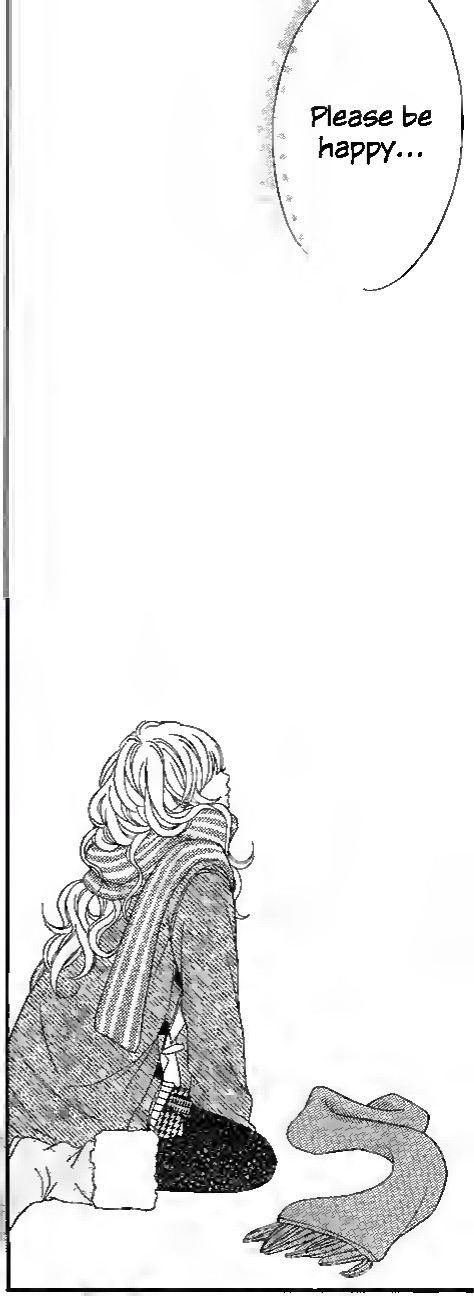

Could it be...
That you're thinking of disappearing?
... Yuki?

That's all.
My wish
is for Akari to be happy in this warm place.
THE WHOLE REASON OF MY EXISTENCE
WAS ALL
N...no.

FOR THE SAKE OF MEETING HER...
Right now, I'm really happy.
No...
I wasn't able to do anything for you.
Please, Yuki, please don't disappear.
Akari ...
There's no greater joy than this...
Yuki ...
But with this, I'm able to hold you.
With this, I can lead you to happiness.



THE SNOW



Akari, you want to get going soon?
Yeah.
...
Oh. This muffler...
Akari, you made this, right?
But why do you use it for yourself?
Eh?
I'm pretty sure you made it for me.
So... sorry,
This isn't for you.
squeeze...
Because this...
"Thank you.
I will cherish it 'til the day I die."

IN A WORLD WITHOUT ME,
ONLY YOUR MEMORIES
AND ONLY YOUR HEART
REMEMBERS ME.
AKARI...
Because this belongs to Yuki...
I HAVE BECOME YOUR ONLY SHADE OF WHITE.
Fin